



# Title I News

December 2003

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## Review Your Title I Credentials!

As a reminder, the K-12 Title I math and reading credentials will no longer be in existence as of July 1, 2006. At that time, the State Title I office will delete all K-12 math and reading credentials and reissue new math and reading credentials to reflect the area you are qualified to teach.

The Title I office needs all Title I teachers to review their Title I credentials. If you are currently holding a K-12 math or K-12 reading credential but are **only teaching in an elementary setting**, please contact Sandy Peterson by e-mail at [smpterson@state.nd.us](mailto:smpterson@state.nd.us), by telephone at (701) 328-2170, or by fax at (701) 328-4770. If you are presently teaching in an elementary setting, please let Sandy know if you are willing to change your current K-12 math or K-12 reading credential to a K-6 math or K-6 reading credential.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated! To lessen the burden immediately before the July 1, 2006 deadline, we are hoping to start revising credentials now.

If you have further questions regarding this change, please feel free to contact Sandy.

## North Dakota's Meeting with Undersecretary Hickok

On Wednesday, November 12, 2003, the state of North Dakota was honored to hold a meeting with Undersecretary Eugene Hickok, from the U.S. Department of Education. The purpose of this meeting was to allow North Dakota educational leaders the opportunity to address key issues in *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) and how North Dakota schools are affected by the implementation of NCLB. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and North Dakota's Congressional delegation co-sponsored this event.

A written summary of the meeting can be accessed on the department's website at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/index.shtm).



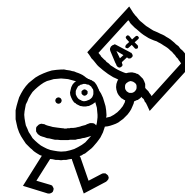
## Title I Monitoring List Released

As stated in previous correspondence, monitoring of schools by the Department was put on hold to allow the Department time to develop a more coordinated monitoring process. However, the Title I programs must still be monitored. Therefore, the State Title I office has compiled a list of the 26 school districts that will be monitored during the 2003-2004 school year. Only Title I programs will be monitored at these schools. The list of schools to be monitored and the Title I staff member responsible for monitoring each school is available online at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/resource/monitor/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/resource/monitor/index.shtm).

Schools on this list will be contacted by Title I program staff to arrange the details of the monitoring visit.

## District and School Building Report Cards are Available

The Department has prepared annual report cards for parents and the public on the academic achievement of students at the district and school building level. Currently, only report cards for the 2001-2002 school year are available online at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/dpi/reports/profile/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/dpi/reports/profile/index.shtm). The report cards for the 2002-2003 school year should be available soon at the same website listed above.



## Title I Aide/Paraprofessional Update

- **Timeline to Meet NCLB Requirements**

As part of NCLB, Title I aides/paraprofessionals must now meet certain requirements to be employed in a program supported with Title I funds.

The reauthorized law requires all Title I aides/paraprofessionals hired after the date of enactment, January 8, 2002, to meet the requirements immediately. All aides hired before the date of enactment have four years to fulfill one of the new requirements. Four years from the date of enactment is January 8, 2006.



However, in North Dakota, we have established July 1, 2005 as the date when aides/paraprofessionals have to meet the new requirements of NCLB.

The July 1, 2005 deadline was established because it would be very difficult to have aides/paraprofessionals hired for the 2005-2006 school year and then have to terminate their employment mid-year if they do not pass a test or meet the requirements by January 8, 2006. In addition, the Department would have to establish a system for schools to submit documentation after January 8, 2006, verifying that all aides/paraprofessionals working in a program supported with Title I funds meet the requirements.

By having a July 1, 2005 date, we can ensure that all aides/paraprofessionals meet the requirements when we review and approve the 2005-2006 Consolidated Applications.

A waiver provision has been established for aides/paraprofessionals who are working on getting an associates degree or obtaining two years of coursework (48 semester hours) at a university of higher education. An aide/paraprofessional who needs until January 8, 2006 to finish either one of those two options can apply for a waiver. The waiver will extend their time period, if they submit a plan of study which documents that they are working towards becoming highly qualified and will have their program completed by January 8, 2006.

- **ParaPro Assessment**

Many of you have been calling the Title I office with questions regarding the ParaPro Assessment. We apologize for any miscommunications that have transpired with information about this testing option. The State Title I office cannot register aides for taking the ParaPro Assessment either via e-mail or by Internet. Detailed instructions for signing up for the ParaPro Assessment are available online at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/aides.shtm).

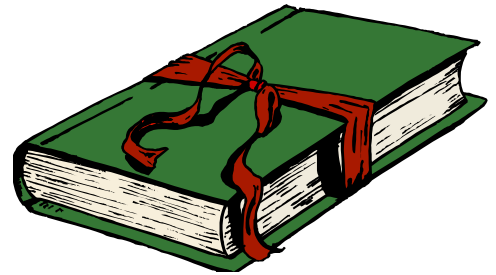
If you have questions regarding any of the regulations regarding aides/paraprofessionals, please contact Nita Wirtz in the State Title I office by e-mail at [nwirtz@state.nd.us](mailto:nwirtz@state.nd.us) or by phone at (701) 328-1876.

## Reading First Update

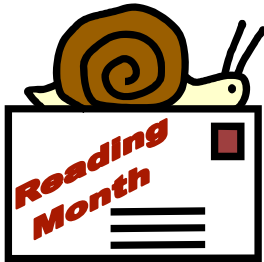
Reading First is an ambitious national initiative to ensure that all students know how to read well by the end of third grade. There are currently eight school buildings in North Dakota with Reading First grants. The second round of competition was held this fall. The Reading First grant applications were due on October 30, 2003. The State Reading First office received 25 applications from 14 school districts. The State Reading First office anticipates funding 12 school buildings.

Each grant application will be read and scored by three grant reviewers. The grant reviewers are currently finishing their reviews and the scores will be tabulated within the next month. Hopefully, by the end of December we will have news on which school buildings will be funded.

The dates for the next round of competition are unknown at this time. Whether a spring competition is held depends on whether or not funding is available after this fall round. Each grant application must receive an average score of at least a 139 or more to be funded. After funding those grants that receive an acceptable score, the Reading First office will determine if there are funds available for a spring competition.



For more information on Reading First, check out the Reading First website at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/reading/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/reading/index.shtm).



## Soon to Come - Reading Month Packets!

February is just around the corner and that means...so is Reading Month. This year's reading month theme is *Exploring with Lewis and Clark*. It is expected that the packets will be sent via postal mail in mid-December and addressed generically to each school. The Reading Month packet will be burned onto a CD due to the length of the packet. The packet envelope will have a large, red **READING MONTH** stamp on the front. Be sure to be on the lookout for this packet! You won't want to miss it.

## Call for Proposals

We need your help and expertise for two upcoming conferences. The North Dakota Reading Association and the International Reading Association are seeking program proposals for their upcoming conferences.

The North Dakota Reading Association Spring Conference will be held in Minot, North Dakota on April 15-17, 2004. If you are interested in presenting at this conference, please complete the proposal form online at [www.misu.nodak.edu/cel/html/ndra.html](http://www.misu.nodak.edu/cel/html/ndra.html) by Thursday, January 15, 2004. If you have further questions, please contact Susan Kjos at (701) 857-4595 or [susan.kjos@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:susan.kjos@sendit.nodak.edu) or Carla Berg at (701) 857-4590 or [cberg@sendit.nodak.edu](mailto:cberg@sendit.nodak.edu).

The 31<sup>st</sup> Plains International Reading Association Conference will be held in Bismarck-Mandan, North Dakota on October 6-9, 2004. Proposals for this conference must be mailed no later than Friday, May, 7, 2004. For information regarding this program proposal, please visit [www.reading.org/meetings/regional\\_conf](http://www.reading.org/meetings/regional_conf) or download the proposal form at [www.reading.org/pdf/31stPlains\\_ProgramProp.pdf](http://www.reading.org/pdf/31stPlains_ProgramProp.pdf).



## Moving Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

A change has taken place within the Department of Public Instruction. Administration of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers Program has now been turned over to the Title I unit. Nita Wirtz, in the Title I unit, will be the coordinator for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program establishes or expands community-learning centers that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities, along with activities designed to complement the students' regular academic program. Community learning centers must also offer families of these students literacy and related educational development.

Currently there are eight sites in North Dakota that receive a 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant through the Department of Public Instruction. We are contemplating another round of applications possibly after the New Year. For additional information on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program, log onto [www.dpi.state.nd.us/21stCent/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/21stCent/index.shtm).

## Teacher Quality Update

- This past summer, the Department of Public Instruction requested an attorney general's opinion as to specifically what the Education Standards and Practices Board's role is and what the Department of Public Instruction's role is in defining "highly qualified" and to provide an interpretation of the language in HB 1489 regarding licensure and accreditation. On November 18, 2003, the department received an official response from Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.



In summary, the letter states that the Education Standards and Practices Board has authority to establish the limits on teacher qualifications. The Superintendent of Public Instruction has full authority to accredit schools and is free to set teacher qualifications as a part of the accreditation requirements; however, the requirements relating to teacher qualifications cannot be set higher than those established by the Education Standards and Practices Board.

- Janet Welk, in the Education Standards and Practices Board office, is working on a teacher quality toolkit for North Dakota educators. This toolkit will provide educators with additional guidance and resources on what it means to be highly qualified in North Dakota. Janet is hoping to have this toolkit available before the holiday break.
- Lou Aronson is the portfolio coordinator hired by the Education Standards and Practices Board to oversee the portfolio option available to teachers to become highly qualified. Lou wrote an article for the December issue of The Prairie Reader giving an overview of the portfolio-based assessment tool. If you do not receive The Prairie Reader, you can access her article on the Department's website at [www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/index.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/index.shtm). The article is posted under the teacher quality heading.
- There are obviously many unanswered questions that still exist regarding the teacher quality provision in the NCLB Act. In particular, educators have raised questions regarding what being highly qualified means for special education teachers. Janet Welk, with the Education Standards and Practices Board, Bob Rutten, with the Special Education Unit, and Laurie Matzke, in the Title I unit, are working on a joint letter that will communicate to the field our understanding of the teacher quality requirements for special education personnel. It is very important that educators hear a uniform message regarding the teacher quality requirements.



## North Dakota Superintendent of the Year

The State Title I office would like to congratulate Robert Tollefson, Superintendent of the Wilton and Washburn Public Schools, who was recognized as Superintendent of the Year by the North Dakota Association of School Administrators (NDASA).

## Director's Report

The State Title I office is coming to closure on the review process of consolidated applications, reallocated funds applications, and program improvement applications. We hope to have all funds awarded before the holiday break. We are working on a solution to make the consolidated application process more efficient in order to get them approved earlier in the school year.

This month Title I program staff will be randomly monitoring schools for compliance with the "Parents' Right to Know" clause and compliance in the dissemination requirements pertaining to the Adequate Yearly Progress reports. Schools selected for the "Parents' Right to Know" clause monitoring will be receiving a letter from Nita Wirtz. Schools selected to have their Adequate Yearly Progress letters reviewed will be receiving a letter from Laurie Matzke.



We are still working to develop a process to recognize distinguished Title I schools under *No Child Left Behind*. Additional grant funds will be available to schools who meet the "distinguished Title I schools" criteria. We are hoping to finalize the criteria this month. We will then disseminate and share this information with all school personnel.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season!

## E-mail Alert!

The Department has made significant changes to state staff e-mail addresses. In the past, e-mail could be sent to a DPI employee using the [@mail.dpi.state.nd.us](mailto:@mail.dpi.state.nd.us) address. This has changed and is no longer accepted by our e-mail server. All DPI staff now has the address of [@state.nd.us](mailto:@state.nd.us). Please update your address books! Please refer to page 5 of this newsletter to get current e-mail addresses of all Title I staff.





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## **Upcoming Events**

### **National Title I Conference**

■ February 7 – 10, 2004

New Orleans, LA

For more information, please visit [www.aplusevents.com/T04/index.html](http://www.aplusevents.com/T04/index.html).

### **NDCTM – Spring Math Conference**

■ March 26-27, 2004

Grand Forks, ND

For more information, please visit [www.sendit.nodak.edu/ndctm/spring2004.information.html](http://www.sendit.nodak.edu/ndctm/spring2004.information.html)

### **NDRA – Spring Conference**

■ April 15-17, 2004

Minot, ND

For more information, please visit <http://ndreadon.utma.com/intro.htm>.

### **International Reading Association Conference**

■ May 2-6, 2004

Reno, NV

For more information, please visit [www.reading.org/2004](http://www.reading.org/2004).

## **Fun Holiday Websites**

### **Send a Letter to Santa at the North Pole**

[www.thenorthpole.com/sendmail.htm](http://www.thenorthpole.com/sendmail.htm)

### **Track Santa's Flight on December 25**

[www.noradsanta.org](http://www.noradsanta.org)

### **Christmas Ornaments**

[www.kidsdomain.com/craft/\\_xorn-other.html](http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/_xorn-other.html)

### **Words to Christmas Songs**

[www.nevada.edu/~blake/Christmas.songs.html](http://www.nevada.edu/~blake/Christmas.songs.html)

### **The History of Christmas**

[www.holidays.net/christmas/story.htm](http://www.holidays.net/christmas/story.htm)

### **The North Pole Times**

[www.northpoletimes.com](http://www.northpoletimes.com)

### **Hanukkah**

[www.akhlah.com/holidays/hanukkah/Hanukkah.asp](http://www.akhlah.com/holidays/hanukkah/Hanukkah.asp)

### **Ideas for the Holidays**

[www.theideabox.com/ideas.nsf/seasonal](http://www.theideabox.com/ideas.nsf/seasonal)

### **Kwanzaa**

[www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/kwanzaa](http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/kwanzaa)

### **Happy Kwanzaa**

[www.kidskourt.com/Holidays/KwanPage.htm](http://www.kidskourt.com/Holidays/KwanPage.htm)

